

Scrip Talk

July 2009 Volume # 37 Issue # 155




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Paid Advertisement

From the President:

Our Fall Show is scheduled for October 3 and 4 at the Landmark Inn, Pikeville, Kentucky.

Please call early and make your reservations (606-432-2545). It is getting very hard to find a place that we can afford to have a show. I have been talking to the folks at Cumberland Gap about the Fall 2010 Show and hope we can work it out. We may have to have a paid dinner on Friday night to help offset the expenses, so be thinking about that. I have been assured that they will work with us to make this a reality.

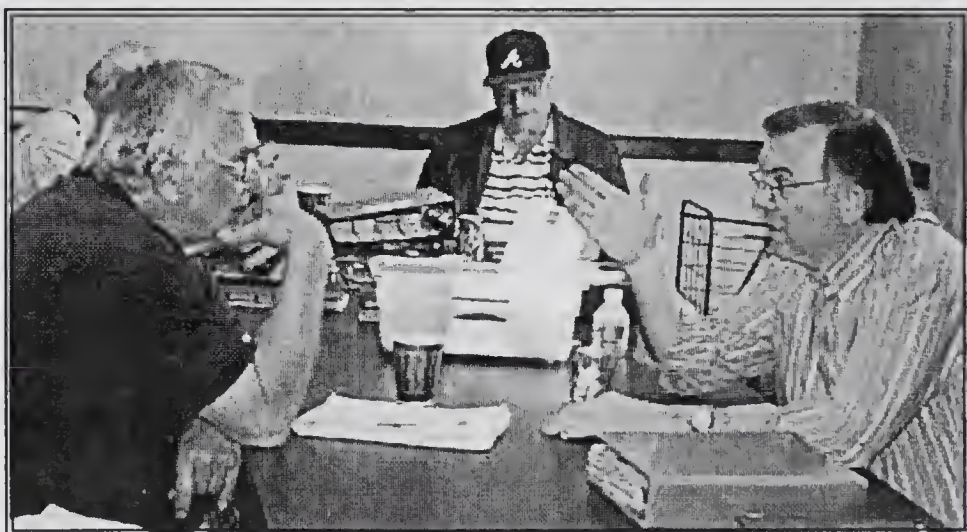
Please send Bill Fugera your new finds. We need desperately to update the books but everyone should do their part. There are some talented people who will undertake this monumental task but it cannot be done unless everyone get involved.

Some of our old time collectors have recently gone to their reward and script collecting will not be the same without them. One of the first I met was Steve Sodosky. A finer gentleman I have never known and honest to a fault. He and I had many deals until his health prevented him from attending shows. Rest in peace, my friend.

Jim Lackey

More Scenes from a Scrip Show

The Spring Scrip Show in Beckley, as photographed by Dottie Click



Interesting Mining Money

David E. Schenkman

The Blossburg Coal Mining and Railroad Company went in business in the late 1860s. Some time after that the company's name changed to Blossburg Coal Company, Inc. In *The Coal Mines of the United States* for 1883 it is simply listed as "Blossburg Coal Co." According to Dodrill, the mine remained in operation until 1923.

Four denominations of tokens are known to have been issued by the company under the latter name: 5, 10, 25, and 50 cts. All are made of black hard rubber, a composition which was evidently first used in the manufacture of tokens during the early years of the Civil War. There is no way to know exactly when the tokens were issued, but from their style I'd guess no later than the 1870s.

You might have noticed that I used the words "made of" instead of "struck." Hard rubber tokens were made by taking sheets of rubber and placing them in pre-heated hydraulic presses (visualize a waffle iron). These presses contained a number of reverse dies in the bases, and a corresponding number of obverse dies in the movable upper arm. The tokens were manufactured by a combination of heat and pressure.

Most (but not all) hard rubber tokens were manufactured between the early 1860s and the mid 1880s. The early ones are black, dark brown, brick red, or maroon, although other colors were also used during the later years of the rubber token era.

You might be surprised to learn that it was the bicycle craze of the 1880s that ended the hard rubber token era. The cost of crude rubber shot up during that time, and available rubber supplies were being bought up by the manufacturers of bicycle tires. Celluloid and other compositions were used to make tokens for a short period of time, but never on a large scale. And by the late 1880s it was economically feasible to use aluminum, "that wonderful new metal," in the manufacture of tokens.

The Blossburg Coal Company tokens are all rare, but occasionally an example is offered for sale. In addition to one of the tokens, I have also illustrated a \$2.00 paper scrip note which was issued in 1874. A similar \$5.00 note is known to exist also. I suspect the company issued the tokens for fractional denominations, and notes for the dollar and higher values. So, \$1.00 notes probably exist, although I've never seen one. These paper notes are extremely rare; much more so than their hard rubber token counterparts. The standard catalog of Pennsylvania obsolete notes doesn't list anything from this company. Obviously the author wasn't aware of their existence.

(This new, possibly regular, column will discuss various unusual tokens or paper scrip used by mining companies. Comments or questions may be emailed to me at dave@turtlehillbanjo.com)

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TWO.

Arnot, Pa., April 4, 1874.

\$2.

*Good for **two dollars**, payable only to an
employee of the **BLOSSBURG COAL COMPANY**, in Merchan-
dise, when presented at the Store of said Company.*

Countersigned by

AGENT.

STOREKEEPER.

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Scrip Talk 1818 Harper Rd Beckley WV 25801 304/253-7242

Thanks to the generosity of NSCA member Charles Miller, any new member signing up for the club will receive a FREE set of random WV scrip. Use this great gift as an incentive to invite new members to join!

NEW FINDS

Bill Fugera
28732 Charreadas
Laguna Niguel, CA
92677
FUGEWILJ@COX.NET

KITTS, KENTUCKY 1535 (HARLAN)

Clover Fork / Coal / Co. / Kitts, / Ky.

B50 B 35 Rd Sd Good For / 50 / In Merchandise Only (10 scallops)

LENA RUE, KENTUCKY 1607 (HARLAN)

The Lenarue / Coal / Company / Lena Rue, Ky.

A5 A 20 Rd Sd Wright & Sons Cin. O.

LISLE, KENTUCKY 1649 (HARLAN)

Kentucky King Coal Co. / 10 / Lisle, Ky

A10c Np 21 Rd Co ICS

LOUELLEN, KENTUCKY 1683 (HARLAN)

Cornett- Lewis Coal Co. / Louellen, Ky.

A50 B Rd Sd Not transferable / 50c / In / MDSE Only

Cornett-Lewis Coal Co. / Louellen, Ky.

I50 B 27 Rd Sd Orco Pat Pend.

MIDDLESBORO, KENTUCKY 1897 (BELL)

Bennetts Fork / Coal / & / Coke Co.

R50 A 29 Oc Sd Good For / 50 / In Merchandise

R100 A 35 Oc Sd Good For / 100 / In Merchandise

OMEGA, KENTUCKY 2125 (PULASKI)

Congress Coal Mining Co. / incuse No. 4 / Omega, Ky.

A100

OZ, KENTUCKY 2158 (McCREARY)

Paint Cliff / Mines Co. / Oz, Ky.

A5 A 20 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise

A25 A 26 Rd Sd

A50 A 28 Rd Sd

PACKARD, KENTUCKY 2159 (WHITLEY)

Mahan Jellico Coal Co. / 100 / Packard, Ky.

D100 N 32 Rd Co MMISC Des. Pat.

PINEVILLE, KENTUCKY 2230 (BELL)

National Coal & Iron Co. / Straight / Creek / Mines / Pineville, Ky.

J5 A 19 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise

PRUDEN, KENTUCKY 2305 (BELL)

Back Creek Coal & Coke Co.

D5 B 22 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / In / Merchandise

RED ASH, KENTUCKY 2363 (WHITLEY)

The Proctor Coal Co. / Red Ash / Ky.

B50b B 30 Rd Sd Good For / 50 / In Merchandise

B100 Cu 32 Oc Sd

RIM, KENTUCKY 2405 (BELL)

Four Mile / Coal / Company / Rim, Ky.

C50b A 30 Oc Sd Good For / 50 / In Merchandise

SHAMROCK, KENTUCKY 2567 (BELL)

Climax / Coal Co. / Shamrock, / Ky.

C10 A 23 Rd Sd Good For / 10 / In Trade

TINSLEY, KENTUCKY 2793 (BELL)

Bennett Wilder Coal Co. / Tinsley, / Ky

L5 A 22 Oc Sd Good For / 5 / In / Merchandise

Thank you for bidding. Hope you find something here that you need.

JACK CHAPMAN'S THIRTY-DAY SCRIP AUCTION

Starting Date: 8/1/09

Ending Date: 8/29/09

Lot #	Scrip #	Company and Town	R rating	Condition	Min. bid
1	KY 385-B25a	Harlan Collieries Co. (Brookside, Ky) Pick & Shovel Pictorial	R-2	very good	\$8.00
2	KY 385-B10	Harlan Collieries Co. (Brookside, Ky) Pick & Shovel Pictorial	R-2	very good	\$8.00
3	KY 385-B5	Harlan Collieries Co. (Brookside, Ky) Pick & Shovel Pictorial	R-1	very good	\$5.00
4	KY 385-C5	Harlan Collieries Co. (Brookside, Ky) Pick & Shovel Pictorial	R-7	very good	\$15.00
5	KY 975-H5b	Yocum Creek Coal Co., Evarts, Ky	R-8	mint	\$10.00
6	KY 1635-A1b	Perkins-Harlan Coal Co., Liggett, Ky	R-3	fine	\$5.00
7	KY 673-A100	River Ridge Collieries, Cote, Ky	R-8	fine	\$8.00
8	KY 673-A50	River Ridge Collieries, Cote, Ky	R-8	fine	\$8.00
9	KY 673-A25	River Ridge Collieries, Cote, Ky	R-8	fine	\$8.00
10	KY 673-A10	River Ridge Collieries, Cote, Ky	R-10	fine	\$10.00
11	KY 673-B1	River Ridge Collieries, Cote, Ky	R-6	good	\$20.00
12	KY 151-B500	Fordson Coal Co., Banner Fork, Ky	R-4	very good	\$25.00
13	KY 87-C50	R.C. Tway Mining Co., Anchor, Ky	R-1	fine	\$3.00
14	KY 87-C25	R.C. Tway Mining Co., Anchor, Ky	R-1	fine	\$3.00
15	KY 87-C10	R.C. Tway Mining Co., Anchor, Ky	R-1	fine	\$3.00
16	KY 87-C5	R.C. Tway Mining Co., Anchor, Ky	R-1	fine	\$3.00
17	KY 301-A25	R.C. Tway Mining Co., Bland, Ky	R-1	fine	\$3.00
18	KY 301-A10	R.C. Tway Mining Co., Bland, Ky	R-3	fine	\$3.00
19	KY 301-A5	R.C. Tway Mining Co., Bland, Ky	R-1	fine	\$3.00
20	KY 1801-C500	Greenville Coal Co., Martwick, Ky	R-9	mint	\$200.00
21	KY 2655-E1	Stearns Coal & Lumber Co., Stearns, Ky	R-7	very good	\$75.00
22	KY 2655-F5	Stearns Coal & Lumber Co., Stearns, Ky	R-1	very good	\$8.00
23	KY 2881-A1b	The Consolidation Coal Company, Van Lear	R-3	good	\$10.00
24	KY 2955-A10	Elk Horn Coal Corporation (Wayland, Ky)	R-3	very good	\$5.00
25	KY 2955-A5b	Elk Horn Coal Corporation (Wayland, Ky)	R-3	good	\$5.00
26	KY 1782-A100	Stephens Elkhorn Fuel Corp., Manton, Ky	R-6	mint	\$10.00
27	KY 841-E100	Turner Elkhorn Coal Co. (Drift)	R-7	good	\$15.00
28	KY 841-F10a	Turner Elkhorn Coal Co. (Drift)	R-8	good	\$15.00
29	KY 841-H25	C.L. Senters, Drift, Ky	R-4	very good	\$5.00
30	KY 841-K10	E.S. Myers, Drift, Ky	R-6	good	\$8.00
31	KY 389-A100	Gibraltar Coal Mining Co., Brownie, Ky (Bi-Metal)	R-6	very good	\$6.00
32	KY 389-A50	Gibraltar Coal Mining Co., Brownie, Ky (Bi-Metal)	R-6	very good	\$6.00
33	KY 389-A25	Gibraltar Coal Mining Co., Brownie, Ky (Bi-Metal)	R-6	very good	\$6.00
34	KY 1879-A100a	Gibraltar Coal Mining Co., Mercer, Ky	R-6	very good	\$6.00
35	KY 569-C100	Gibraltar Coal Mining Co., Cleaton, Ky	R-6	very good	\$6.00
36	KY 569-C50	Gibraltar Coal Mining Co., Cleaton, Ky	R-6	very good	\$6.00
37	KY 569-C25	Gibraltar Coal Mining Co., Cleaton, Ky	R-6	very good	\$6.00
38	KY 3009-C100a	Sandlick Coal Company, Whitesburg, Ky	R-7	very good	\$10.00
39	KY 3009-C5b	Sandlick Coal Company, Whitesburg, Ky	R-6	very good	\$6.00
40	KY 27-B1	Leckie Collieries (Aflex, Ky) Thistle Pictorial	R-2	fine	\$5.00
41	KY 27-B5	Leckie Collieries (Aflex, Ky) Thistle Pictorial	R-6	fine	\$10.00
42	KY 27-B10a	Leckie Collieries (Aflex, Ky) Thistle Pictorial	R-3	fine	\$5.00
43	KY 2999-C5	Inland Steel Company, Wheelwright, Ky	R-5	very good	\$7.00
44	KY 2999-C1	Inland Steel Company, Wheelwright, Ky	R-4	very good	\$5.00
45	KY 609-A2000	Mary Helen Coal Corp., Coalgood, Ky	R-6	mint	\$200.00

Continued on Next Page

Send bids to: Jack Chapman, 166 Chapman Rd., Shady Springs, WV 25918 (304) 763-5048

Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____ Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____

Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____ Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

Scrip and invoice will be mailed to winning bidders. Payment must be sent by return mail.

Thank you for bidding. Hope you find something here that you need.

JACK CHAPMAN'S THIRTY-DAY SCRIP AUCTION

Starting Date: 8/1/09

Ending Date: 8/29/09

Lot #	Scrip #	Company and Town	R rating	Condition	Min. bid
46	TN 501-I100	The Diamond Coal Mining Co. (Caryville, Tenn)	R-5	very good	\$6.00
47	TN 501-I25	The Diamond Coal Mining Co. (Caryville, Tenn)	R-6	very good	\$6.00
48	TN 2209-C100	The Diamond Coal Mining Co. (Petros, Tenn)	R-5	very good	\$6.00
49	TN 2209-C50	The Diamond Coal Mining Co. (Petros, Tenn)	R-5	very good	\$6.00
50	TN 2645-B500	Elijah Coal Mining Co., Stainville, Tenn	R-9	mint	\$200.00
51	TN 3017-G500	Tennessee Products Corp., Whitwell, Tenn	R-9	very good	\$15.00
52	TN 557-K25	Royal Jellico Coal Co., Clairfield, Tenn	R-5	very good	\$6.00
53	TN 1047-C100	Rennebaum Coal Company (Fork Ridge, Tenn)	R-5	very good	\$6.00
54	TN 1047-E10	Fork Ridge Coal & Coke Co., Fork Ridge	R-10	good	\$25.00
55	TN 1047-E5	Fork Ridge Coal & Coke Co., Fork Ridge	R-10	good	\$25.00
56	VA 2089-E500	Norton Coal Company, Norton, Va	R-6	very fine	\$40.00
57	VA 2495-AC500	Va-Harlan Coal Corp., St. Charles, Va	R-7	very fine	\$30.00
58	VA2495-AC100	Va-Harlan Coal Corp., St. Charles, Va	R-3	very fine	\$10.00
59	VA 2495-T500	Benedict Coal Corporation, St. Charles, Va	R-6	very good	\$8.00
60	VA 2495-T100	Benedict Coal Corporation, St. Charles, Va	R-3	very good	\$4.00
61	VA 3029-A25	V.I.C. & C Co. (Virginia Iron Coal & Coke) Dept E (Wilder, Va)	R-7	good	\$15.00
62	VA 3029-A10	V.I.C. & C Co. (Virginia Iron Coal & Coke) Dept E (Wilder, Va)	R-7	good	\$15.00
63	VA 3029-A5	V.I.C. & C Co. (Virginia Iron Coal & Coke) Dept E (Wilder, Va)	R-7	good	\$15.00
64	VA 291-C50	Gibson Fuel Co., Inc, Blackwood, Va	R-2	fine	\$3.00
65	VA 291-E100	Blackwood Fuel Company, Blackwood, Va	R-2	very good	\$8.00
66	VA 333-G1	Blue Diamond Coal Company, Bonny Blue, Va	R-1	very good	\$3.00
67	VA 1451-A1	Jewell Ridge Coal Corp., Jewell Ridge, Va	R-3	very good	\$5.00
68	VA 167-E100	Splash Dam Smokeless Coal Corp., Bartlick, Va	R-6	very good	\$8.00
69	VA 2459-A100	Panther Coal Co., Roseann, Va (Panther Pictorial)	R-3	fine	\$10.00
70	VA 2459-A25	Panther Coal Co., Roseann, Va (Panther Pictorial)	R-3	fine	\$7.00
71	VA 2459-A10	Panther Coal Co., Roseann, Va (Panther Pictorial)	R-2	fine	\$5.00
72	VA 1389-A100	Stonega Coal & Coke Co., Imboden, Va	R-5	fine	\$10.00
73	VA 333 mixed set	Blue Diamond Coal Co., Bonny Blue, Va	6 pieces	worn	\$60.00
74	VA 3073-A set	Yellow Creek Coal & Coke Co. (Wise, Va) (100 thru 05)	5 pieces	fine	\$125.00
75	VA 2205 mixed set	King Coal Mining Corp., Pennington Gap, Va	5 pieces	fine	\$30.00
76	TN 2209-A set	Petros mercantile, Petros, Tenn (100 thru 05)	5 pieces	good	\$30.00
77	TN 2825-A set	Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. (Tracy City)(100 thru 05)	5 pieces	very good	\$50.00
78	KY 2651-C/D set	Mahan-Ellison Coal Corp, Stanfill, Ky (100 thru 01)	6 pieces	very good	\$17.00
79	KY 1805-A set	Mary Alice Supply Co., Mary Alice, Ky (100 thru 05)	5 pieces	very good	\$17.00
80	KY 1163-B set	Parker-Gray Coal Co., Gray, Ky (100 thru 05)	5 pieces	very good	\$17.00
81	KY Exploder B5	Bell Coal Company, Little Creek, Ky One Dynamite Cap	Ky mx2	very good	\$10.00
82	VA Exploder J20	Jewell Ridge Coal, Jewell Ridge, Va One Cardox Shell	Va mx7	very good	\$20.00
83	WV Exploder I14a	Industrial Collieries Mine No. 21 (Richard) One Stick	mx70a	very good	\$20.00
84	WV 1021-D100	Leckie Firecreek Coal Co. (Fireco, W Va) Horse Pictorial	R-9	very good	\$40.00
85	WV 1021-D25	Leckie Firecreek Coal Co. (Fireco, W Va) Horse Pictorial	R-9	very good	\$40.00
86	WV 2173-B100a	Panther Coal Co. (Panther, W Va) Panther Pictorial	R-4	good	\$10.00
87	WV 2173-C25	Panther Coal Co. (Panther, W Va) Panther Pictorial	R-6	good	\$12.00
88	WV 2173-C10	Panther Coal Co. (Panther, W Va) Panther Pictorial	R-3	very good	\$6.00
89	WV 2787-A100	3 Forks Coal Co. (Three Forks, W Va)	R-8	very good	\$20.00
90	WV 513-C10	Kanawha & Hocking C. C., Cedar Grove, W Va	R-7	very good	\$15.00

Send bids to: Jack Chapman, 166 Chapman Rd., Shady Springs, WV 25918 (304) 763-5048

Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____ Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____

Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____ Lot# _____ Amount of Bid _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____, Zip: _____

Scrip and invoice will be mailed to winning bidders. Payment must be sent by return mail.

TWILA, KENTUCKY 2853 (HARLAN)

Creech Coal Company, Inc. / Twila / Ky.
B5 B 20 Rd Sd Good For / 5 / -in- / Merchandise
C10 A 23 Rd Sd Good For / 10c / In Trade

VARILLA, KENTUCKY 2887 (BELL)

Varilla Mining Co. / Varilla, / Ky.
A50 A 32 Rd Sd Good For / 50 / -in- / Merchandise

CLAIRFIELD, TENNESEE 5657 (CLAIBORNE)

Clairfield Jellico / Coal / Co. / Clairfield, Tenn.
A10b B 26 Rd Sd Good For / 10 / In Merchandise

FORKRIDGE, TENNESEE 1047 (CLAIBORNE)

Rennebaum Coal; Company / 25
C25b Cu 24 Rd Co Orco Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

HARTRANFT, TENNESEE 1247 (CLAIBORNE)

Bryson Mt. C. & C. Co. / Serial No. 76 / 100 / Store / 1905
G100 B 17 Sq Co Hartrant, Tenn.

JELICO, TENNESEE 1437 (CAMPBELL)

Blue Gem Coal Co. / Jellico / Tenn.
E25 B 25 Oc Sd Good For / 25 / cents / In / Merchandise

The Proctor Coal Co. / Indian / Mountain / Store
F5 N 23 Oc Sd Good For / 5 / In Merchandise
F25 A 25 Rd Sd

JBG / Coal / Co.
D10 B 24 Sq Sd Good For / 10 / In Merchandise

PIONNER, TENNESEE 2238 (CAMPBELL)

Pioneer Coal / & / Coke Co. / Tenn.
E25 B 29 Sc Sd Good For / 25 / In / Merchandise

BONNY BLUE, VIRGINIA 333 (LEE)

Redeemable In Cash On Settlement Days If And When / Due To Employee To Whom Issued / 100 / Blue Diamond / Coal
Co. / Bonny Blue, Va.
B10b B 23 Rd Co Orco 1940
B100b B 32 Rd Co Orco 1940

Scrip Trivia

The earliest use of coal in the Americas was by the Aztecs. They used coal for heat and ornaments.

The use of wooden posts to support a mine roof was an innovation first introduced about 1800.

Richard Sutcliffe invented the first conveyor belt for use in coal mines in the early 1900s.

In 1984 Australia surpassed the US as the world's largest coal exporter.

Federal legislation passed in the 1930s granted workers the right to organize unions.

Resources from the NSCA

Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Scrip

Volume 1, Third Edition

This 380 page hardcover book lists almost 9000 pieces of scrip. Information includes the company that issued the piece, denominations issued in the series, material the piece is composed of, diameter, shape, visual representation of any cut-out in the piece, and a rarity rating that gives a suggested value.

Issued by the *NSCA*, this is the recognized guide for collecting and valuing scrip. Volume 1 lists scrip from 36 states, not including West Virginia which is the subject of Volume 2. This is the latest edition and also includes a wealth of information about the history of scrip. Sections include: Early Coal History; Scrip Heritage; How Scrip was Used; Fakes; and a look at the makers of scrip.

MEMBER COST: \$35 + \$4 shipping

Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Scrip

Volume 2, Third Edition

This 370 page hardcover book lists over 7,400 pieces of West Virginia coal mine scrip. Information includes the company that issued the piece, denominations issued in the series, material the piece is composed of, diameter, shape, visual representation of any cut-out in the piece, and a rarity rating that gives a suggested value. The definitive guide to West Virginia scrip.

Issued by the *NSCA*, this is the latest edition. Volume 2 lists scrip from West Virginia. This is the current edition and includes a wealth of information about the history and use of scrip, as well as the actual listings of individual pieces.

MEMBER COST: \$40 + \$4 shipping

EXPLOSIVE CONTROL TOKENS

This extensively illustrated volume is the most thorough study of exploder tokens ever written. Contents include: Metals & Compositions, Sizes & Shapes, Valuations, Manufacturers, Counterfeits, Re-strikes, a cross reference to the Edkins catalogues, and more. A fascinating glimpse at the history of a variety of coal mine operations, in addition to its specific focus on exploders. 140 pages, hard cover.

MEMBER COST: \$20 + \$4 shipping

CATALOGUE OF LUMBER COMPANY STORE TOKENS

This book is very similar to the *Edkins* coal scrip books that are the standard for valuing and collecting coal company scrip; but this 575 page hardcover book is dedicated completely to listing the thousands of styles of lumber scrip issued in the past by logging and lumber companies in all 50 states, including maverick listings. Published by the *NSCA*.

Not only is the value and complete description of each denomination of scrip individually listed, but many companies have a short paragraph about their history of operation, the facilities they owned, or the amount of track laid by the company. A wealth of information for the lumber token collector.

MEMBER COST: \$40 + \$4 shipping

ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

— EDKINS vol 1 \$35

— EDKINS vol 2 \$40

— Explosive Tokens \$20

— Lumber Catalogue \$40

Shipping: \$4 for the first item, \$2 each additional

Scrip Talk 1818 Harper Rd Beckley WV 25801

Borderland

Jim Lackey

Collecting scrip from states whose adjacent borders both produced coal can be perplexing but still can be enjoyable. Tug River separates West Virginia and Kentucky and both sides produced coal. Mingo County, WV borders Martin and Pike County, KY and all three counties were heavy producers of coal. The N&W Railroad was on the West Virginia side of the river but many mines were located in Kentucky and had West Virginia addresses.

Earlston Coal Company was located in Martin County, KY across the Tug River opposite Kermit, WV and carries a Kermit address.

Winco Block was located about a mile above Naugatuck, WV in Martin County but carries a West Virginia address also. Winco's coal was conveyed across the river to the tipple on the West Virginia side.

Borderland Coal Corporation is another large concern which did the same as above but was located in Pike County, KY. Borderland scrip is not particularly hard to find and there is a wide variety to choose from.

However, when you start analyzing your collection, you will see that there is more variety than you suspected.

The A series is mixed and should be separated into A, B, and possibly C. Borderland Coal Co., Corporation and Corp. are bundled into the A classification. In addition there are two reverses. One has a solid number and one has open numbers with serrations.

An unlisted 10 cent piece with solid numbers has been found recently. In addition to this you have the B and C series, which have cutouts of 1 and 2, and the D series which is octagon and is marked Borderland Collieries Co.

If this is not enough to confuse you, another series has been found which is marked 1908 on the obverse. This is probably the earliest Borderland scrip as it is marked Co. and has the open, serrated numbers.

If this is not confusing enough you also have the Borderland Coal Co. at Armen in Bi-Metal with a 1913 date on the obverse. Armen is located just a short distance below Borderland.

I suspect that there are many pieces of Borderland still waiting to be discovered. Whether you collect West Virginia or Kentucky, you will enjoy collecting Borderland.

All rights reserved by author.

Georges Creek Coal & Iron Company

William Fugera

Years ago I lived in Cumberland, Maryland. I had heard of the Georges Creek area but never paid much attention to it. After acquiring Georges Creek Coal and Iron Company scrip, which was used in Farmington, West Virginia, from 1903 – 1909, I became curious about the company and coal mining in western Maryland. I decided to do further research.



In 1837 a group of investors from Baltimore, Maryland and London, England purchased 11,000 acres of land in the Georges Creek watershed in western Maryland. The new company was called Georges Creek Coal and Iron and was located in their new town called Lonaconing. The business objective was to manufacture iron using local raw materials of iron ore, limestone and coal. Timbering and a saw mill were also part of the plan. The Georges Creek coalfield, which was also called the Cumberland – Piedmont coalfield, is the best historically documented field in Maryland. It has been the most productive field in the state since mining began in the 1820's. George Washington in 1755 described this area as possessing, "the fuel of the future." The main focus for coal was the Pittsburgh seam also known as the Big Vein and the low volatile Upper Freeport Seam also called the Davis Seam.

GCC&IC built an iron furnace that started up in 1839 and was quickly producing 6 tons of iron per day. It took 1.7 tons of coal to make 1 ton of iron. This furnace was the first in the U.S. to successfully use bituminous coal and coke, rather than charcoal, in making iron. The coal/coke is used to remove the oxygen from the iron ore, thus converting the iron ore to iron. Many cast iron products such as farm implements, house wares, mine car wheels and rails were also made. Some iron was sold and shipped by wagon to foundries in nearby Cumberland.

The iron furnace was shut down in 1855 due to a lack of all weather transportation to move the finished products. The company was producing 1860 tons of iron per year, but the transportation issue had either overlooked or ignored. Local needs for iron products were quickly met. Inventory built up and production had to slow down. Some products were hauled to markets by wagon, but this was not practical for long-term business, especially in the winter. GCC&IC built a 9.2 miles spur railroad to hook up with the Cumberland & Pennsylvania Railroad. This spur opened on May 9, 1853, but by the time the railroad was built it was too late to revive the iron business. A near-by competitor, Mt. Savage Iron Company, already had a railroad spur and was well entrenched in the iron business. They had the early foresight to build a railroad to ship their products. However, by this time it was becoming evident that coal was more abundant than iron ore, so GCC&IC turned to mining coal as their sole interest. Other coal companies also opened mines in the area.

The miners were skilled workmen, coming from Scotland, Wales, England, Ireland and Germany. Most could read and write and paid for their children's education. This was 40 years before the state of Maryland provided free public schools. The characteristics of this work force were in contrast to other coal mining areas that employed thousands of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe. English was commonly spoken in the Georges Creek area, compared to a lack of or poor English in other coal mining

areas.

Miners in the Georges Creek area and their families did not live in company houses or have to deal at the company store. Approximately 33 % of the miners owned their own homes. Many varieties of stores came into the area to satisfy the needs of the people. Transportation improved and the railroad made several daily runs to transport people and supplies while transporting coal and other products to markets. Other industries were also appearing in the area. A silk throwing mill was built in 1907. Today the mill is now a museum containing much of the original equipment. There were also brick manufactures using clay from the area.

As noted above, GCC&IC built their own railroad spur. In 1855, 225,000 tons of coal was shipped. In 1856, the rail line was extended and later sold to The Cumberland & Pennsylvania Railroad on October 23, 1863. Today this rail section is still used for some coal hauling. In 1991, 195,000 tons of coal was hauled compared to the 225,000 tons in 1855.

The year 1907 saw the height of bituminous coal production in Maryland, with over 5 million tons being mined. In 1906, the average Maryland miner worked 250 days per year for an annual income of \$497.97. Using this data from the company payroll it appears that the GCC&IC produced 268,350 tons in the 12 months beginning December, 1906. The company had a payroll in 1906 – 1907 of between 180 and 200 miners, each averaging 90 plus tons of coal mined per month. Most of the miners were paid 60 cents per ton per day. Only a few of the miners were still United Mine Workers members after the strike of 1894. Local miners accepted the 60 cents per ton in 1904. It is noted from the June, 1906, payroll documents showed 6 of the 184 miners received 72 cents per ton. Sam Brown was one of them and he was paid for 144 tons. This was considerably more production than most miners. Why some miners earned more is uncertain. One explanation was that Maryland allowed boys to work with their fathers and older brothers. Their earnings were credited to the adult member of the team. This was known as the half turn system. A turn entitled a miner to a car for removing coal he dug. A son accompanying his father could get a half turn that gave the father the opportunity to dig and load extra coal to get a turn and a half. The number of boys was reduced over time, but in 1908 some boys under 16 were still working.

From the miners pay there were deductions of 1% per ton to pay blacksmiths to sharpen picks and other tools. In addition most miners had a \$1 deduction to pay the company doctor and for fuel purchased from GCC&IC.

GCC&IC had approximately 100 support workers on the payroll in addition to the miners. They were clerks, foremen, drivers, outside laborers, watchmen, engineers, mechanics, weigh men, and so forth. There were also two surveyors that were hired to find new coal veins. The company purchased wood for the roof supports and mine car rails. The miners had to take care of these installations and maintenance functions on their own time. A private family was contracted to take care of the horses and mules. The company also provided oats and hay for the horses and mules.

In 1910 Georges Creek Coal and Iron became Georges Creek Coal Company. Around 1918 the Big Vein was depleted. By 1930 the company produced less than 3 % of coal mined in Maryland.



Story continued on the following page

NSCA Free Ads for Members

Free Ads are available to N.S.C.A. members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. You may send up to four different ads in one mailing. Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK. All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to SCRIP TALK Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. SEND ALL FREE ADS TO: Steve Ratliff, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, Florida 32583-7343. More and more scriptors are using the convenience of email to submit their ads; send to Steve@Ratliff.com (Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.)

WANTED: CHAUFFEUR BADGES FROM US AND CANADIAN CITIES - I am trying to assemble a set of Flint, Michigan badges. Have 1913 and 1914 Illinois chauffeur badges in great shape, and numerous other badges to trade. Can send photos. Larry McCord - Email at ltmccord@hotmail.com +

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George's Creek, continued:

Getting back to Farmington, West Virginia ----- GCC&IC had a mine and 7,500 acres of land near Farmington, which boasted a company store and issued scrip. Their mining operation was from 1903 to 1909 with 400 employees. [See Edkins page 95 and Dodrill page 91.] This land was adjacent to 80,000 acres owned by Jamaison Coal & Coke of Philadelphia. Which purchased the GCC&IC operation for \$3,500,000 some time after December 22, 1909.

GCC&IC suffered a deadly explosion at their Chatham Farmington mine on December 22, 1909 killing 10 miners. This was the same date that The New York Times announced the sale of GCC&I to Jamaison.

Georges Creek Coal Company also operated mines in the Logan County, West Virginia, towns of Ethel and Hetzel. Both places had company stores and scrip. Dodrill shows a company store at Lonaconing, Maryland. Neither Dodrill or Edkins show any record of scrip being there.



Original iron furnace now a historical monument. (Guildmark of Lonaconing)